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Army impostor gets jail sentence

Impersonated officer for 3 months

By Boyd Campbell
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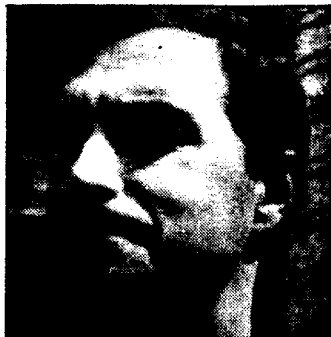
MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A man who masqueraded as an Army captain, claiming he was on a CIA mission, was given a three-year prison term Wednesday.

Alan Everett Goetsch Jr., 34, was arrested in April at Fort Rucker, Ala., where he had played the role three months with full uniform and insignia.

The Red Bluff, Calif., man, who pleaded guilty in May to impersonating an officer, said he was working on two CIA projects: rescue of MIAs in Laos and aiding "contras and other rightists."

"I have the CIA dispatches to prove it," Goetsch said.

He also claimed he had the backing of Sen. Jesse Helms, R-



By Andy Hails, AP

GOETSCH: Gets 3-year term

N.C., and was urged to plead guilty to protect CIA secrets.

Both the CIA and an aide for Helms dismissed his claims.

The FBI and military intelligence officers are investigating how Goetsch broke security.

"None of the activity that he tried to look into was classified," said Fort Rucker spokesman Lt. Col. Larry Retta.

He said Goetsch reported to the base with authentic-looking military ID and orders for a special mission. He even made two parachute jumps.

Said Retta: "His demeanor, his way of speaking showed he had training in the military."

Goetsch, once an Army enlistee, also tried to recruit others for the "mission."

"If Alan Goetsch is a fraud, let's analyze how a fraud could run around like this," he said.

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